



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# WECAFC-FIRMS Data workshop

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, an overview on the  
Fisheries and Marine Resources inventory

*Issues, challenges and lessons learned focusing to data collection, data gaps and deficiencies, and capacity*

*Cheryl Jardine-Jackson*

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

EEZ extension 36,300 km<sup>2</sup>

South of St. Lucia, north of Grenada and West of Barbados

## Geographical overview

National boundaries



# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Maritime Domain

### Main international agreements

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), International Whaling Commission (IWC), International commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Wetlands of international Importants (RAMSAR)

### Joint management plans

Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy – JICA /CRFM, A Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Flying Fish Management Plan for the Eastern Caribbean

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

805t/yr (2006 - 2014)

General figures on  
production sector

Catches

employments

2,500

	Weight (tons)	Value (\$ US)
Average Annual Fish Landings	805	\$ 3.6 million
Average Annual Fish Exports	97	\$ 0.8 Million
Average Annual Fish Imports	500	\$ 2.1 Million

GDP

1 – 1.5%

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

Available fisheries  
in the country

National fleet

845 (CARIFIS Dec 2015)

Types of Vessel	Number
Boston Whalers	7
Bow and Stern	193
Canoes	6
Cigarette/Dory/ Flat Stern	111
Double-enders	195
Launch	12
Tuna Long lines	8
Multipurpose	5
Pirogues	256
*Other	35
sloop	2
Sport fishing	9

\* Other includes bow and stern, pirogues  
Double-enders and Dorries

LENGTHS CATEGORY (FT)	NUMBER OF BOATS
Lengths not recorded	21
1 to 10	24
11 to 20	443
21 - 30	317
31 to 40	33
over 40	1

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

Available fisheries  
in the country

Foreign fleet

34 (SVG registered Highseas vessels)

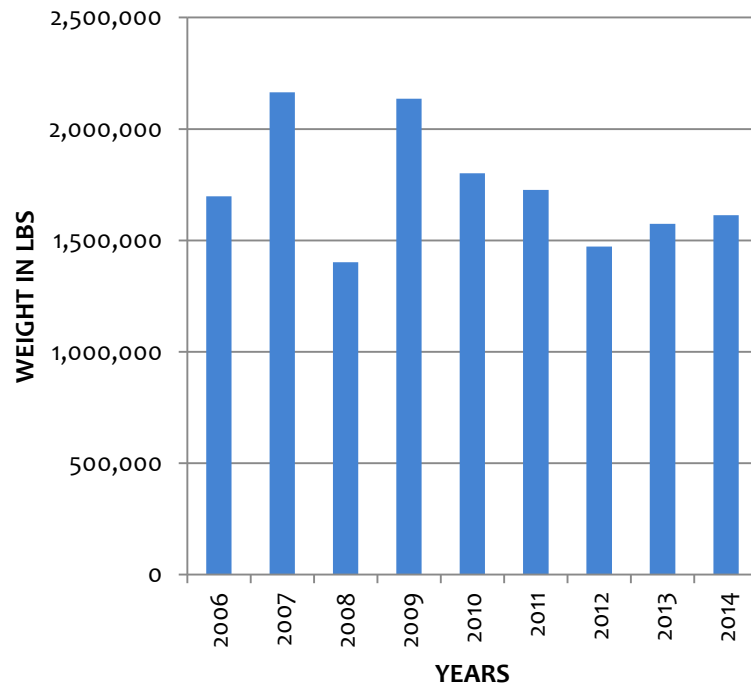
Stocks assessed

Queen Conch (2014)

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Trends & ISSUES

**Fish Landing trends 2006 to 2014**



- ❖ 2007 - Catches and sale of live bait (Jacks) to foreign vessels.

- ❖ 2008 – 1 yr ban on the sale of jacks to foreign vessels were imposed.

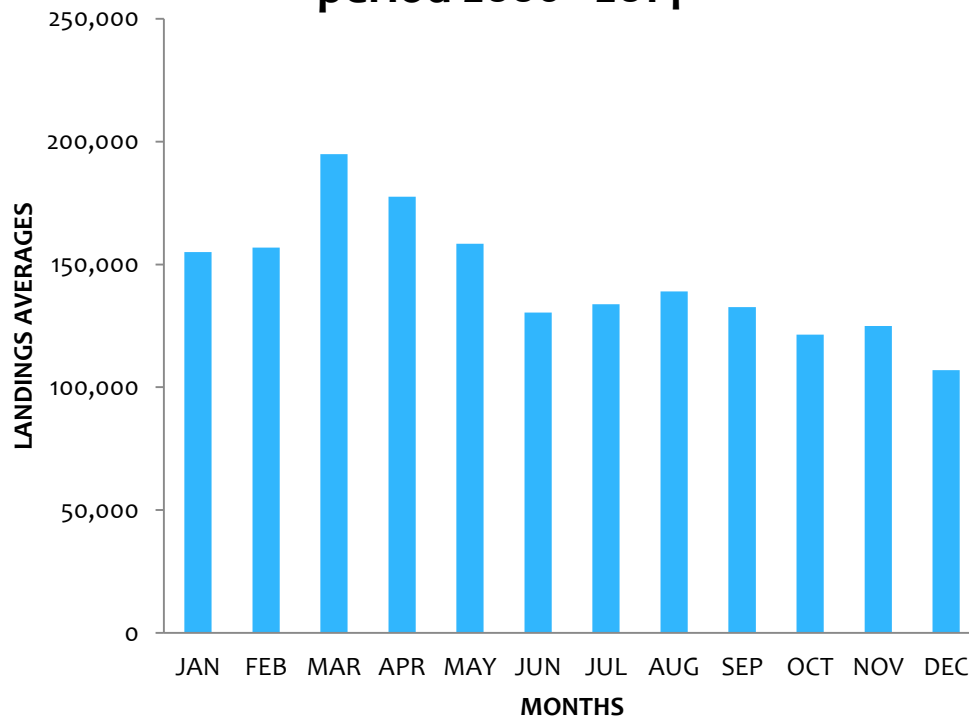
- ❖ 2009 – lifting of the live bait ban.

- ❖ 2010 – Floods and Hurricane Tomas

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Trends & ISSUES

**Fish Landings Monthly Averages for the period 2006 - 2014**

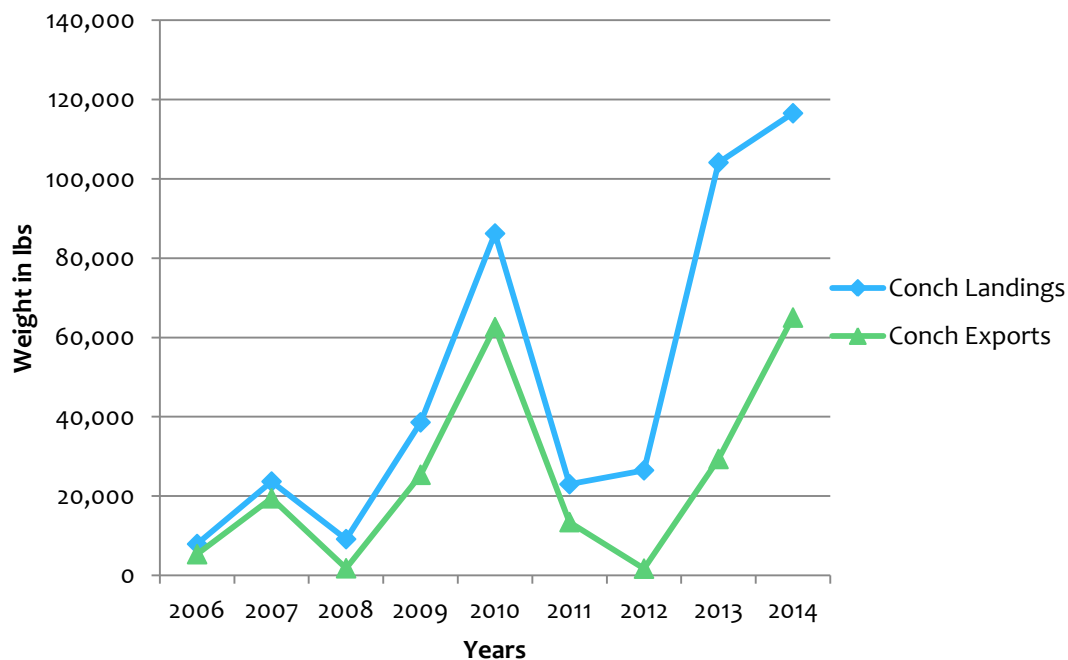


- ☐ March, April, May Peak months – Large pelagics peak season.

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Trends & ISSUES

### Conch Landings and Exports 2006 - 2014

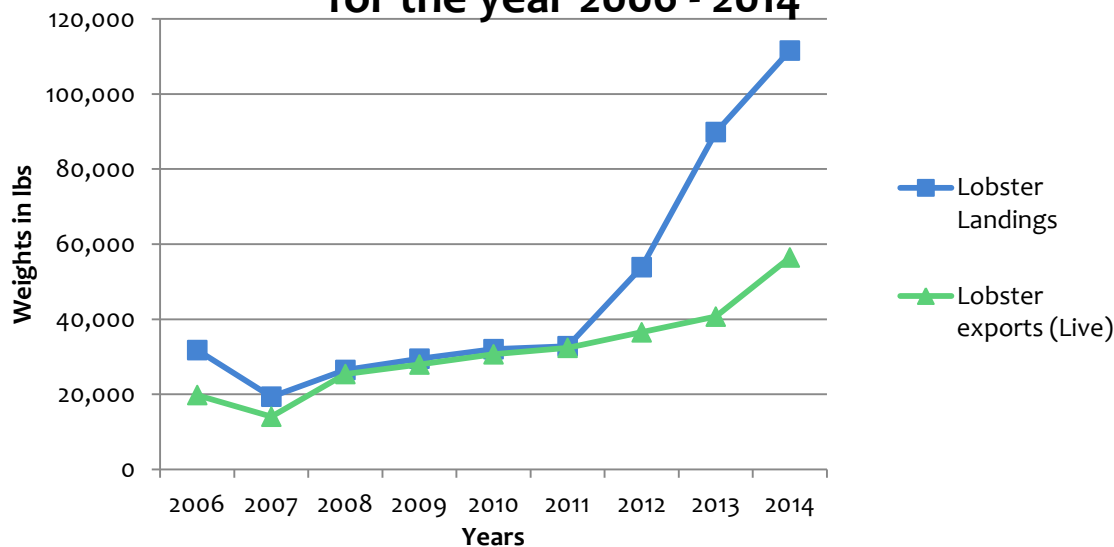


- ❖ Approximately 60 % of Conch are exported
- ❖ Insufficient data coverage

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Trends & ISSUES

**Lobster Landings and exports (Live/Tails)  
for the year 2006 - 2014**

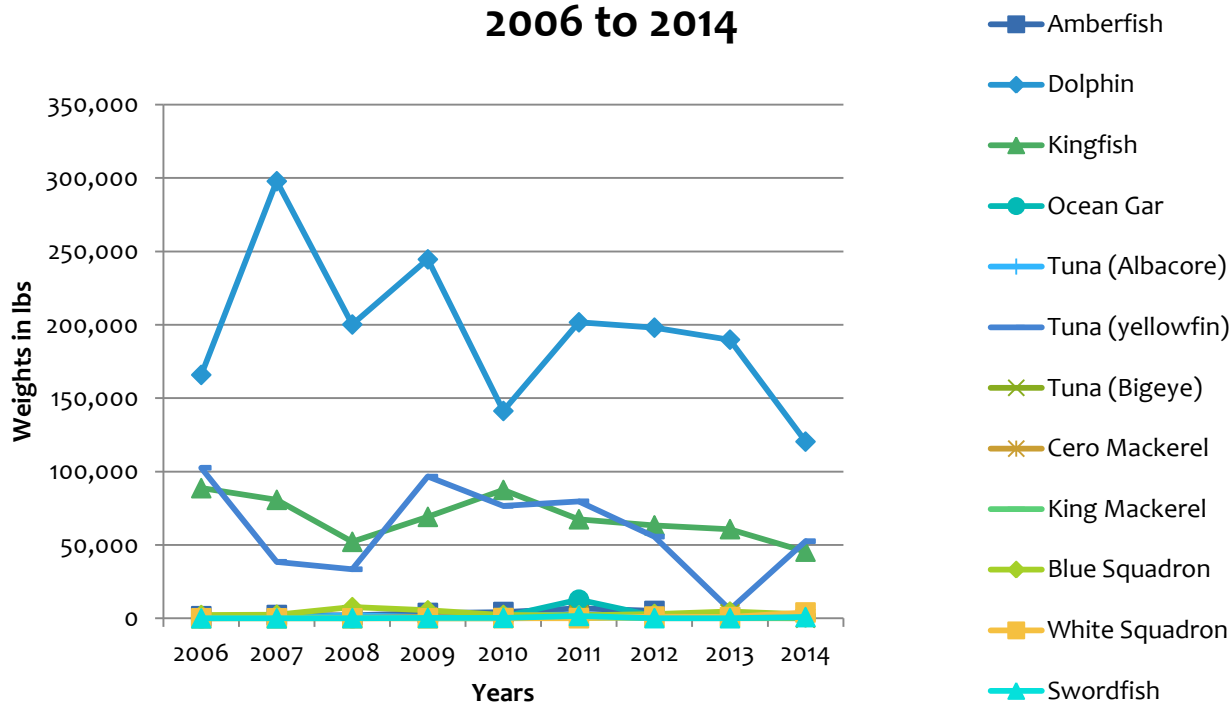


- ❖ Approximately 66% of lobsters are exported
- ❖ Insufficient data coverage on total catch
- ❖ Close season 1<sup>st</sup> May - 31<sup>st</sup> August.

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Trends & ISSUES

### Landings of Large Pelagics species for the period 2006 to 2014

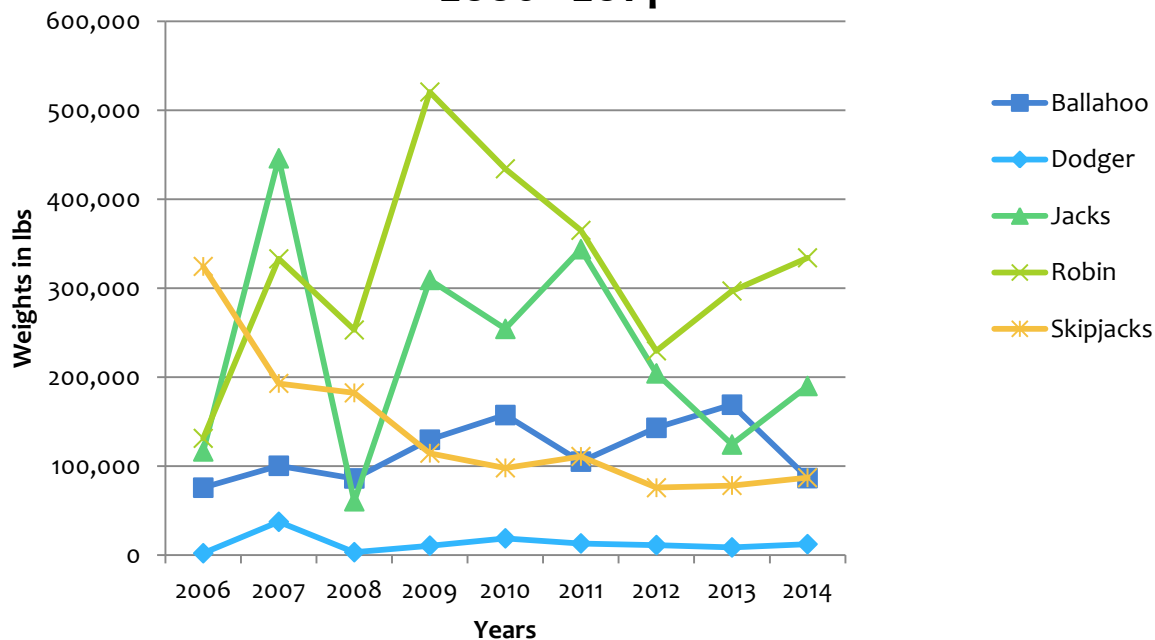


- ❖ Dolphin fish, Kingfish, Tuna (yellowfin) – Most dominant species.
- ❖ Increase in catches of the large oceanic pelagics (blue and white squadrons, swordfish) due to the increase use of FADS.

# Profile of fisheries and marine resources for the country

## Trends & ISSUES

Landings of Small Coastal Pelagics for the period 2006 - 2014



- ❖ Robin and jacks most dominant species.
- ❖ Increase of Jacks landings in 2007, 2009 and 2011- due to the live bait trade to foreign vessels.
- ❖ Decrease of jacks landings in 2012 and 2013 due to the low catches of the regular size bait, and the unavailability of the species in some instances.

# Brief overview for the focus fisheries

Country overall production: 805 t/yr

Fishery	Percentage from overall country production
Queen Conch	2.8%
Flyingfish	0%
Lobster	2.7%
Large Pelagics	19.5%
Small Coastal Pelagics	47.3%
Demersals	25%

# Issues, Challenges and Lessons learned

## Issues & Challenges

### ➤ Data gaps

- Fishery statistics (landings, effort, fleet size) -
  - A random sampling data collection system is in used. Fishermen are interviewed by data collectors.
  - Missed information especially catches from the small coastal pelagics (jacks and robin) since the data collectors might not be on site when fish is being landed from a seine.
  - Effort at some primary site (Kingstown) is not collected. Census data are collected by market staff who record only the catches.
  - Species are not being identified
  - No proper Fisheries Statistics and Information system available.
  - Fleet size can only be approximated, since a complete fisheries census have not been done in decades.

# Issues, Challenges and Lessons learned

- Socioeconomic data – Data is collector, but data is based on data collected several years ago
- Biological data (lengths, ages, life history) - No biological data collected
- Technical capacity (knowledge/information/training) – Training of fishers in deploying and fishing around FADS (ongoing project by JICA)
- Legal/Policy/Institutional provision (e.g. no reporting required by law)
  - It is not required by law for fishers to report their catches. The fisheries Laws and regulations are outdated and need to be revised.

# Issues, Challenges and Lessons learned

## ➤ DATA SHARING

- Statistical Department
- Agriculture Statistical Division
- Stakeholders
- Fisheries Co-operatives
- Regional and International bodies

# Issues, Challenges and Lessons learned

## Lesson learned

- Complete Fisheries census must be conducted
- Recruit and train data collectors to collect catch, effort, biological, fleet etc.
- Apply internationally recognized standards and approach (precautionary approach to fisheries and aquaculture management.
- Revised and improve fisheries regulations and policies and management plans

**Thank You!**  
**Gracias!**  
**Merci!**